

Soil Scoop

Newsletter for Perry & Spencer Counties Soil & Water Conservation Districts

ADVENTURES WITH NATURE AT TIPSAP LAKE A SUCCESS!



The nature field day was held at Tipsaw Lake on July 24 with about 225 people attending the event. Presentations included: water safety, insects, backyard conservation, caves, native Indiana wildlife, and native snakes. Ongoing exhibits included: beekeeping, bird nesting box building, geology, leaf rubbings, nature photo display, spinning demonstrations by members of the Ohio River Valley Fiber Arts Guild, recycled blue jean quilt decoration and sewing, special appearances by Smokey Bear, and tree identification.



We would like to thank all of our sponsors who helped with the expenses: Winzerwald Winery, Wyandotte Corporation, Irv Rueger, Marshall Terry, Paoli Peaks, Amy's Apiary Honey, Buffalo Run, Shirley's Sewing Stuff, Kristin Moran, Bernadine Alvey & Friends, Marengo Cave, Squire Boone Caverns, Lincoln Boyhood National Park, Bear Hollow Wood Carvers, Indiana Tree Farm Committee, Holiday World & Splashin' Safari, Adventures With Nature Committee, and Lincoln Hills RC&D Fish & Wildlife Committee.



This field day is a joint effort from U.S. Forest Service, IDNR Division of Forestry, NRCS-Lincoln Hills RC&D Area, Inc., Perry County Purdue Extension Service, Perry County SWCD, and Spencer County SWCD. The nature field day was a great success and we hope to see you again next year for another



exciting Adventures With Nature Field Day. For those of you who were unable to attend, please come and join us next year.

Photos courtesy Vince Luecke, article by Betsy Wilkinson, Lincoln Hills RC&D

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Perry County SWCD
125 S. 8th St., Rm. 6
Cannelton, IN 47520

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2005 Perry County Plat Books

The Perry County 2005 plat books sell for \$15.75. They are sold at the Perry County Soil and Water Conservation District office in the Annex Bldg., Cannelton and the Records office in the Perry County Courthouse, Tell City.

SAVE THE DATE!

August 8 — Perry County SWCD board meeting
August 9—20 Indiana State Fair—Indianapolis
August 21 — Spencer County SWCD board meeting
August 22 — Perry County No-Till Field Day

September 4 — Labor Day — all offices closed
September 12 — Perry County SWCD board meeting
September 18 — Spencer County SWCD board meeting

October 9 — Columbus Day — all offices closed
October 10 — Perry County SWCD board meeting
October 16 — Spencer County SWCD board meeting
October 22—24 — IDEA Fall Workshop, district staff attending

November 14 — Perry County SWCD board meeting
November 20 — Spencer County SWCD board meeting

EMERALD ASH BORER OUTBREAKS IN INDIANA

Two more outbreaks of Emerald Ash borer (EAB) have been discovered. One of them is in St. Joseph County, near South Bend, Indiana. And an emerald ash borer adult has been discovered in northern Illinois, in Kane County. This is the first time EAB has been discovered in Illinois.

While this is still quite a ways from us here in southwestern Indiana, it is a sign that we must remain vigilant against spreading this devastating pest. You can see an updated map of where EAB has been found at this site:

[www.entm.purdue.edu/EAB/
images/maps/fullSize/
nationalMap.jpg](http://www.entm.purdue.edu/EAB/images/maps/fullSize/nationalMap.jpg).

Full information on the insect and how to identify infested ash trees can be found at both the Purdue EAB site

www.entm.purdue.edu/EAB/
and the national EAB site:
www.emeraldashborer.info

These sites will also contain information on protecting your trees and what steps can be taken to avoid spreading the insect.

Jodie Ellis, Exotic Insects Educator with the Purdue Department of Entomology, has helped Dr. Bruce Steward of Bayer Advanced Consumer Products to put together a publication on using the soil drench chemical imidacloprid (Bayer Advanced Tree and Shrub Insect Control) to protect your ash trees from EAB. This publication has photos and a thorough description on the proper way to use the chemical. You can download this article from here:

[www.entm.purdue.edu/EAB/
eabPdf/bayer.pdf](http://www.entm.purdue.edu/EAB/eabPdf/bayer.pdf)

As always: stay vigilant, learn how to identify EAB infested trees, and if you see something suspicious, contact me immediately.

Larry Caplan
LCaplan@purdue.edu

DISTRICT UPDATES

The Perry County Soil and Water Conservation District Annual No-Till Field Day and Picnic will be held at Ronnie and Beth James' on **August 22, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. CST.**

Ronnie and Beth James' is located near Perry Central High School. Turn east off of State Highway 37 onto French Ridge Road, and then watch for orange signs. There will be ribeye sandwich meals available for \$5.00 per plate.

The speakers and topics will be Glen Nice, from Purdue Extension Weed Science, will talk about how to control and identify toxic plants in pastures. Victor Shelton, Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Agronomist, will talk about grazing, proper fencing, and fencing laws. **Reservations are due by August 14.** For more information, contact the Perry County SWCD at 812-547-4686.

River Friendly Farmers

Anthony Bruggeman was chosen as this year's recipient of the Indiana River Friendly Farmer Award for Perry

County. William Kern and Richard Lloyd were selected as this year's Spencer County recipients of the Indiana River Friendly Farmer awards.

These conservationists will be recognized on Farmers Day at the Indiana State Fair and will receive a sign to display on his farm. Anthony, William, and Richard are being recognized for protecting water quality in Indiana's rivers, lakes, and streams. Congratulations Anthony, William, and Richard!

Summer Aides

This year the Perry County SWCD board selected Kristen Gogel as their summer intern. She will be a senior at Perry Central High School this fall. Kristen's extra-curricular activities include volleyball, German Club, NHS, and FFA. She is the daughter of Jerry and Glenda Gogel.



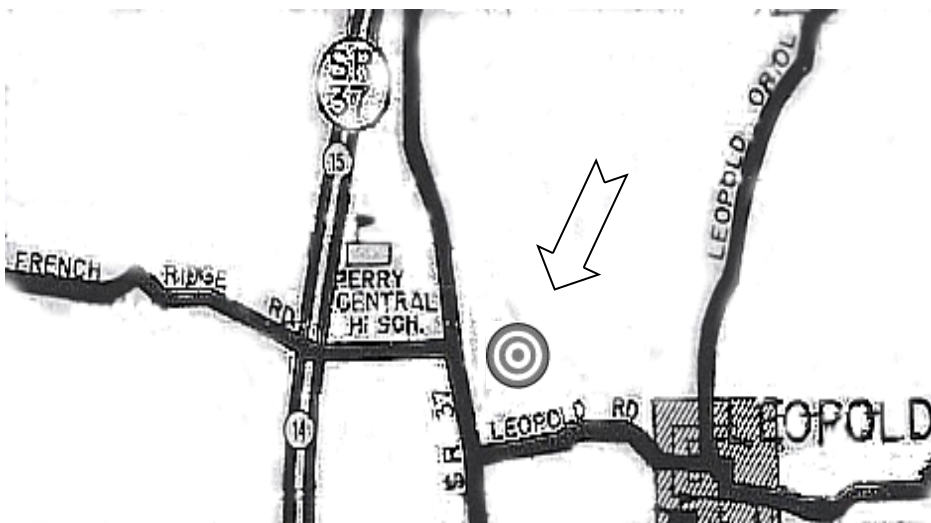
Returning to Spencer County SWCD for his fourth year as Summer Aide is Brian Oxley, who is a senior at Indiana State University, studying Social Studies Education and Geography. Brian is the son of Robert and Annie Oxley of Dale. The Rockport office staff were happy to have Brian's experience and good humor available for another season of checking CRP fields, performing status reviews, and other duties.

Also this year, the Rockport Field Office is happy to host Alicia Manser as an NRCS intern, working in both Perry & Spencer counties,



and training under our District Conservationist, Rita Schaus. Alicia is a senior at Purdue University, studying agronomy. She is originally from southeast Ohio, but says she is enjoying her stay in southwest Indiana, and has learned quite a bit about the conservation practices implemented in the area.

Photos courtesy Darlene Fischer (Kristen), and Vince Lueke (Alicia & Smokey Bear). Due to technical difficulties, a photo of Brian was unavailable at press time.



HELP NEEDED TO RESTORE BOBWHITE QUAIL HABITAT *Jeff Thompson, IDNR Wildlife Biologist*

Northern bobwhite quail have long been a favorite of landowners and hunting enthusiasts. Besides being a desirable wildlife species for recreational hunting, bobwhite quail also play an important role in the agricultural ecosystem.

Quail eat plant and weed seeds, and a variety of insects. They also serve as prey for many predators. Because of their role in the food chain, quail are an important indicator of ecosystem health. Quail are a representative of a community of wildlife that requires early-succession habitats. Quail prefer habitats that have recently been disturbed. The resulting plant community includes grasses, legumes, annual weeds and brushy cover, all closely interspersed across the farm.

Bobwhites are found throughout southwest Indiana, however their population level at any given time is directly related to land use patterns, management practices and weather. Historically, quail populations have increased and declined as a result of natural factors, as well as the land use and management activities of humans. Early land-use practices and farming methods created a patchwork of small fields that provided ideal quail habitats.

Over the past 30-40 years, bobwhite quail populations have declined significantly across Indiana. Modern farming tends to use more intensive cultivation practices, uses a greater degree of pesticides, and requires larger equipment. These advanced farming practices have encouraged the removal of edges and field borders, resulting in larger field sizes. Pastures and hay fields have been planted to monocultures of grasses such as tall fescue. Tall fescue tends to grow aggressively, and this further reduces the overall habitat quality for quail. As a result, quail populations have declined 65% since 1980. It should be noted that this

population decline is after the hard winters in the late 70's which also had a drastic impact on quail populations. Quail populations continue to decline at the rate of 3-4% per year.

On many farms, weedy and brushy fence lines, field borders and odd areas have been removed, or are dominated by tall fescue or mature trees. This reduction of open grassy and weedy areas has resulted in the loss of nesting and brood habitat. Loss of nesting and brood habitat is the most critical habitat loss for bobwhite quail.

Your property has the potential to provide better quail habitat. To assist landowners in improving quail habitat, there are programs that provide cost-share assistance, and rental payments on crop ground to landowners who are interested in improving habitat for quail. Private landowners are the single most important group because the fate of the bobwhite quail hinges on their land-use practices. For information and programs on improving quail habitat, contact Jeff Thompson, Wildlife Biologist, at **812-789-2724**. Together we can work to restore habitat for this national treasure.

WANTED



Bobwhite Quail

REWARD

Annual Soil Rental \$\$

Cost-Share \$\$

Signing Incentive \$\$

For More Information Contact Your

U.S.D.A. Service Center or

Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife District Wildlife Biologist

USDA—SPENCER/PERRY COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY

P.O. Box 47 Rockport, IN 47635

812-649-9136 (phone) 812-649-4796 (fax)

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/> **Hours:**

Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. CST

County Committee: Randy Kleaving, Cornelius Collignon, Jeff Vogel, Judy Sigler, Marty Williams

Staff: Liz Franz, Kim Hensley, Dona Stevenson, Mary Anne Schriefer



United States
Department of
Agriculture

SIGNING FOR ENTITIES

In simpler times, when a producer visited the county office to sign a form there was no question about how to sign. The producer simply signed his or her name on the dotted line.

In today's world of "entities" — trusts, limited liability companies, cooperatives, partnerships and corporations — signing Farm Service Agency and Commodity Credit Corporation forms isn't so simple.

First, you have to have a document on file at the county office saying you're authorized to sign for the entity. It could be a copy of the

articles of partnership or articles of corporation or a valid power of attorney.

Second, you have to know how you're supposed to sign. In almost all instances, when you're signing for an entity, your signature has to include "by" or "for," indicating you're signing in a representative capacity.

For example, say you have a partnership, the John R. Smith & Sons Partnership, and you're authorized to sign for the partnership. Acceptable signatures include "by George C. Smith"; "by George C. Smith, Partner"; and

"John R. Smith & Sons Partnership, by George C. Smith, Partner."

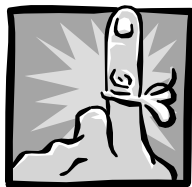
Remember, if you've established an entity for your operation, you can no longer sign forms and contracts as yourself. When you have signing authority for an entity, you have to sign forms on behalf of the entity, not yourself.

If you have questions about the proper way to sign forms and contracts for your entity, contact the county office staff. We can review the records and help determine the acceptable signature for your situation.

2008-2010 CRP CONTRACTS

If you have a Conservation Reserve Program contract that expires in 2008, 2009 or 2010, you should have received a letter from the county office explaining your options to re-enroll or extend your contract. To take advantage of the offer, you must respond by the close of business on June 30, otherwise your contract will expire on its stated date.

If you have any questions, don't wait. Contact the Perry/Spencer county office staff for detailed information today.



CCC-633-EZ REMINDER

Remember, we've switched to the CCC-633-EZ form. It's a one size fits all form you can use to indicate your intention to receive loan deficiency payments for all your crops at the beginning of the crop year, long before you've lost beneficial interest.

The same form is then used to submit a request for an LDP any

time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest.

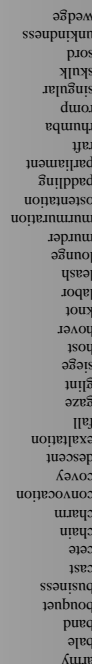
For the 2006 crop year, the CCC-633 EZ and eLDP online requests are the only methods available to request LDPs.

Contact the county office staff for details.



Farm Service Agency

A group of cows is a herd, and a group of kittens is a litter. In the clues below are animal names, can you figure out the group names for those animals? *Answers are located on the back cover*



2 Finches
5 Crows
9 Greyhounds
10 Bobolinks
11 Moles
12 Raccoons
13 Ducks
14 Mallards
15 Boars

20 Lizards
22 Caterpillars
24 Goldfish
25 Ravens
28 Otters
29 Badgers
30 Quail
31 Frogs
32 Sparrows

1 Rattlesnakes
3 Woodcocks
4 Woodpeckers
6 Coyote
7 Turtles
8 Pheasants (flushed)
13 Owls
14 Herons
16 Eagles

19 Larks
21 Geese (flying)
23 Starlings
26 Foxes
27 Trout
28 Turkeys
29 Hawks

USDA ANNOUNCES NEW PROGRAM TO IMPROVE FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

WASHINGTON, May 18, 2006—Agriculture Under Secretary Mark Rey today announced the availability of \$2.3 million for the Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP) in selected forest ecosystems.

"Through cooperative conservation, private landowners can restore and enhance forest ecosystems to promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species, improve biodiversity, reduce the risk of catastrophic fire, and enhance carbon sequestration," said Rey. "The Healthy Forests Reserve Program is an additional tool to advance the goals of President's Healthy Forests Initiative and I encourage eligible landowners to participate."

HFRP will focus on habitat recovery for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker in the Lower Ouachita River Flatwood region of Arkansas, the Canada lynx in the northern boreal forest of Maine, and the gopher tortoise in the longleaf pine ecosystem along the gulf coast of Mississippi.

Interested landowners must develop a restoration plan that includes conservation practices necessary to restore and enhance forested habitat for species listed as threatened or endangered, or species that are candidates for the threatened or endangered species list. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will provide technical assistance to help participants develop and implement their HFRP

restoration plans. Additionally, eligible land must be privately owned land that will protect, restore, and enhance habitat and the recovery of a threatened or endangered species; improve biological diversity, or increase carbon sequestration.

Three enrollment options will be available to eligible landowners: a 10-year cost-share agreement where the landowner may receive up to 50 percent of the cost of approved conservation practices, a 30-year easement where the landowner may receive up to 75 percent of the easement value of the enrolled land plus up to 75 percent of the cost of approved habitat conservation practices, or an easement of not more than 99 years where the

continued on back cover

ENERGY FACTS, FROM USDA-NRCS

Potential Annual Nationwide Savings

Doubling no-till acreage (from 62 to 124 million acres) could save an additional 217 million gallons of diesel fuel and \$423 million each year.

Converting irrigation systems from medium or high pressure to low pressure could cut energy costs by \$150 million each year.

Improving water efficiency by just 10 percent could reduce diesel consumption by 27 million gallons and save farmers and ranchers \$52 million each year.

Doubling the use of manure-based nitrogen to replace fertilizer produced from natural gas could save \$750 million and 100 billion cubic feet of natural gas annually.

Reducing application overlap on 250 million acres of cropland could save up to \$750 million in fertilizer and pesticide costs each year.

Total potential national savings from implementing these five conservation measures: about \$2.0 billion per year.

How Individual Producers Can Save Energy and Money

Switch from conventional tillage to no-till—and save up to 3.5 gallons of fuel per acre with a current value of \$6.83 per acre.

Move to low-pressure irrigation systems—and save \$40 per acre for medium-pressure systems and \$52 per acre for high-pressure systems.

Replace old or inefficient irrigation pumps—and if producers achieve a 10-percent improvement in water use efficiency, they could reduce diesel consumption by 8 gallons per acre, saving \$15,600 on 1,000 acres.

Use manure instead of petroleum-based fertilizers—and reduce corn fertilizer costs up to \$55 per acre.

Better manage pesticide applications through precision agriculture—and pay for the cost of a basic "auto-steer" guidance system in two years by saving \$2000 in pesticide costs per year on 3,000 acres of cropland.

Improve pesticide use with scouting, spot spraying and integrated pest management—and potentially realize significant savings in pesticide application costs.

Plant windbreaks and shelterbelts to reduce heating and cooling costs—and save up to 20 percent on energy bills for the farmstead.

Adopt management intensive grazing practices—and save up to \$6.50 per acre in energy costs and another \$38.00 in reduced harvest costs.

**Perry County SWCD Rental Equipment
812-547-4686**

Spreader	\$100.00 per day
Scraper	\$100.00 per day
10 ft. No-Till Drill	\$7.00 per acre
7 ft. No-Till Drill	\$7.00 per acre
Aer-Way Caddy	\$5.00 per acre
Straw Crimper	\$10.00 per day
Stock Water Tank Forms	\$10.00 per use
Surelock Staple Gun	\$10.00 per day
Rolatape Measuring Wheel	\$10.00 per day
Tree Planting Bars	\$1.00 per bar
Erosion Netting	\$0.20 per ft.

AD SPACE AVAILABLE

Looking for ways to get your business more exposure in the county and help the environment at the same time? Advertising space is available on this Perry/Spencer newsletter, which is sent to all program participants and affiliate members of Perry & Spencer Counties' Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Multiple packages available to fit your budget! Contact Kristin Moran, Spencer County SWCD District Coordinator, at kristin.moran@in.nacdnet.net or (812) 649-9136x3 for details.

Animal Group Names Answers (from page 6)
ACROSS: 2 Charm, 5 Murder, 9 Lash, 10 Chain, 11 Labor, 12 Gaze, 13 Parliament, 14 Siege, 16 Convocation, 17 Business, 19 Exaltation, 21 Wedge, 23 Murnuration, 26 Skull, 27 Hover, 28 Ruff, 29 Cast
DOWN: 1 Rhumba, 3 Fall, 4 Descent, 6 Band, 7 Bale, 8 Bouquet, 13 Parliament, 14 Siege, 16 Convocation, 17 Business, 19 Exaltation, 21 Wedge, 23 Murnuration, 26 Skull, 27 Hover, 28 Ruff, 29 Cast

FOREST ECOSYSTEMS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

landowner could receive up to 100 percent of the easement value of the enrolled land plus the cost of approved habitat conservation practices.

Landowner protections will be made available to HFRP participants who agree to restore or improve their land for threatened or endangered species habitat for a net conservation benefit to the species. In exchange, the program participant will avoid future

regulatory restrictions on the use of that land protected under the Endangered Species Act.

HFRP is a voluntary conservation program. An interim final rule with request for public comments was published in the Federal Register on May 17, 2006. All comments received during the 90-day public comment period will be considered in developing a final rule.

NRCS State conservationists

will announce the geographic eligibility areas and state sign-up periods. Additional information on HFRP is available at:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/HFRP/ProgInfo?HFRPPProgramInfo.html>.

The Healthy Forests Reserve Program interim final rule can be viewed at:

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>



Spencer County Soil and Water
Conservation District
2827 W. State Road 66, Ste. C
Rockport, IN 47635-9260
Ph: (812) 649-9136 x3 Fax: 649-4796
kristin.moran@in.nacdnet.net

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